

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please add sheets 5-6 (informal) of the drawings. The additional sheets include information that was part of the original filing in the form of Attachment A.

Attachment: 2 Additional Sheets

REMARKS

Responsive to the first Office action, applicant has amended the title, added two additional proposed drawing sheets, and has amended the claims. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of those actions.

With respect to formal matters, the Examiner objected to the drawings and the title of the invention. Applicant is submitting proposed informal Figs. 8-9, and each of those figures is of record because they were included in Attachment A to the application as filed. The Examiner objected to the drawings because he contended that they did not show the requirements in claims 3-4 and 11 that the display be “mounted at the steering column” (claim 11), “mounted on the steering column” (claim 3), or “mounted along a central axis of the steering column” (claim 4). Proposed new Figs. 8-9 show drawings with the display mounted on the steering column in such a way to meet each of the above requirements of the claims.

Applicant also clarified the title of the invention by noting that it is a Reflection-Based Vehicular Display System.

With respect to prior-art-based rejections, the Examiner rejected: (1) claims 1-2, 5-6 and 8 as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,013,135 to Yamamura and U.S. Patent No. 5,237,455 to Bordo et al.; (2) claim 11 as being obvious in view of Yamamura and U.S. Patent No. 5,070,323 to Lino et al.; (3) claims 7, 9 and 10 as being obvious in view of Yamamura, Bordo et al., and U.S. Patent No. 5,436,763 to Chen et al.; and (4) claims 3-4 as being obvious in view of Yamamura, Bordo et al., and Lino et al.

Applicant traverses each of the above-identified rejections and requests allowance of all pending, amended claims.

With respect to the applied prior-art, the Examiner's primary reference is U.S. Patent No. 5,013,135 to Yamamura. In Figs. 1 and 3, Yamamura shows a head-up display for projecting as a virtual image the information from control meters in an airplane or an automobile in a so-called "front visual field". The display in Yamamura includes a light source, an LCD shutter, and a first Fresnel lens on the upper surface of a casing to enlarge information on the LCD shutter. There is also a combiner located at an adjustable angle on the upper surface of the casing to produce a virtual image of the information on the LCD shutter.

With respect to the Examiner's secondary reference, U.S. Patent No. 5,237,455 to Bordo et al., applicant notes that Figs. 1, 3 and 6 show an optical combiner for a head-up display apparatus that is integrally molded with a support for the combiner. A baffle prevents direct occupant viewing of the display source of the head-up display.

Amended independent claims 1, 5 and 11 distinguish over anything shown or suggested by the combination of Yamamura and Bordo et al. because, as the Examiner recognized, Yamamura does not show or suggest, as each of the amended claims requires, a "single reflecting element" (amended claim 1), "single mirror" (amended claim 5), or "single display" (amended claim 11). Bordo et al. teaches the use of reflective coating 23 on a combiner 22, and teaches that typical reflective coatings are thin films of aluminum, titanium dioxide, bismuth oxide, or indium oxide. Nowhere does Bordo et al. show or suggest the use

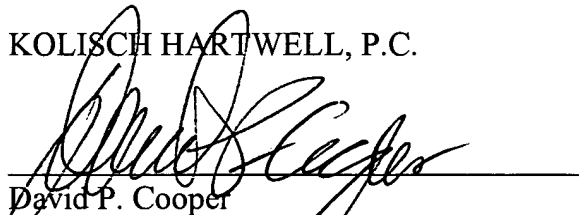
of a single reflecting element/single mirror/single display as required by amended independent claims 1, 5 and 11.

The Examiner also applied two other U.S. patents (U.S. Patent No. 5,070,323 to lino and U.S. Patent No. 5,436,763 to Chen et al.) but neither of those is pertinent to the above-identified requirements of the reflecting element in amended claims 1, 5 and 11. Accordingly, applicant does not believe further discussion of lino and Chen et al. is necessary in view of its arguments provided above.

In conclusion, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims. If there are any questions regarding the above, please telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

KOLISCH HARTWELL, P.C.



David P. Cooper

Registration No. 33,372

PTO Customer No. 29581

520 S.W. Yamhill Street, Suite 200

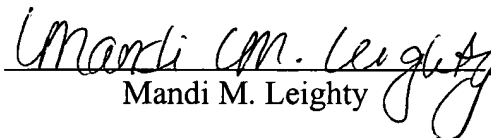
Portland, Oregon 97204

Telephone: (503) 224-6655

Facsimile: (503) 295-6679

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 22, 2005.



Mandi M. Leighty